Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Assay for the activity of oxidizing (2R,3R)-2,3-butanediol: A reaction mixture, which contains 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 8.0), 2.5 mM NADH, 50 mM (2R,3R)-2,3-butanediol and the enzyme, is allowed to react at 30°C, and the increase in absorbance at 340 nm, which is associated with the increase in the amount of NADH, is measured. 1 U is defined as the amount of enzyme capable of catalyzing 1 μmol increase of NADH for one minute. The quantification of polypeptide is carried out by a dye-binding method using a protein assay kit from BioRad.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A reaction mixture containing 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 8.0), 2.5 mM NADH, 100 mM glycerol and the enzyme is allowed to react at 30°C, and the increase in absorbance at 340 nm, which is associated with the increase in the amount of NADH, is measured. 1 U is defined as the amount of enzyme capable of catalyzing the increase of 1 μmol NADH for one minute.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 30 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The above-mentioned microorganism can be cultured in a medium that is generally used for the cultivation of fungi, such as YPD medium (medium containing 1% yeast extract, 1% peptone, and 2% glucose (pH 6.0)). To produce the (R)-2,3-butanediol dehydrogenase of the present invention, it is also possible to use YPD medium in which methanol or glycerol is substituted for glucose; a medium (pH 7.0) containing 1 g of methanol, 0.5 g of ammonium chloride, 0.1 g of potassium dihydrogen phosphate, 0.1 g of dipotassium monohydrogen phosphate, 0.05 g of magnesium sulfate heptahydrate, 3.0 mg of iron (III) chloride hexahydrate, 1.0 mg of calcium chloride dihydrate, 1.0 mg of manganese chloride tetrahydrate, 1.0 mg of zinc sulfate heptahydrate, 200 mg of thiamine hydrochloride and 2 mg of biotin per 100 mL of

medium (hereinafter abbreviated to medium A); and medium A in which glycerol is substituted for methanol.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Accordingly, in one aspect, the invention provides an isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide described herein or a fragment thereof. Preferably, the isolated polynucleotide includes a nucleotide sequence that is at least 60% identical to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1. More preferably, the isolated nucleic acid molecule is at least 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, or more, identical to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1. In the case of an isolated polynucleotide which is longer than or equivalent in length to the reference sequence, e.g., SEQ ID NO:1, the comparison is made with the full length of the reference sequence. Where the isolated polynucleotide is shorter than the reference sequence, e.g., shorter than SEQ ID NO:1, the comparison is made to segment of the reference sequence of the same length (excluding any loop required by the homology calculation).--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Table 1

Step	Protein *(mg)*	Total activity *(U)*	Specific activity *(U/mg)*	Purification *Fold*
Cell-free extract	2400	266	0.111	1
Blue Sepharose	884	195	0.221	2
Phenyl-Sepharose	4.0	190	47.7	431
Resource Q	0.30	66.2	218	1972

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